

Levels of Need

NOTES:

- a) **The following Levels of Need chart, characteristics, and specific CAFAS criteria have not been proven to be an appropriate predictor of placement.** No empirical data has been gathered to confirm that this is a proven method for correct placement. It is not intended as a formula for placement, it is merely guidelines to be followed while making decisions for each case.
- b) **If a child does not reach the minimal Level 1 score on the CAFAS (50-90), it does not mean that they can not receive services from the CSA.** These utilization management efforts are focused on the population of children who have intense needs and are involved with multiple agencies. Other children who receive early intervention and prevention services can still receive CSA services. These children are not subject to the level of need decision support process requirements.
- c) **Begin consideration at the lowest Level of Need and the least restrictive placement.** A child who meets characteristics at a high level may utilize services/placement at a lower level as appropriate. Lack of expected progress should not automatically indicate movement to a higher Level of Need. All options and resources within a lower level should be tried before moving to a higher level.
- d) **The minimum review period is stated as a guideline for the greatest amount of time that should pass before the reassessment of the child and family receiving services.** This review period is a suggestion and the frequency of reviews should be based on the individual needs of the child. For example, children who are in need of a change of services may require more frequent sub-reviews by the professionals responsible for the case. Persons involved in the review will vary depending on the child's level of need and placement. For children receiving services at levels 1 - 5, formal reviews will be performed periodically by FAPT or equivalent assessment teams. In addition, more frequent reviews should be conducted by the specialist responsible for the case. These evaluators are to be determined by the community responsible for the treatment plan of the child. For children receiving services at level 6, the daily evaluation should be conducted by the specialist(s) who are most familiar with the specific needs of the child.

REVISED by OCS, JULY 22, 2003

Levels of Need Chart

Level of Need	Characteristics	CAFAS/PECFAS Risk Factors	CAFAS/PECFAS Total Youth/Child Score	CAFAS/PECFAS Family/Social Support Scale Score	Level Specific Program Components	Primary Caregiver Options	Minimum Review Period
1	<p>Moderate impairment in child's functioning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child has emotional or behavioral problems requiring intervention which are significantly disabling and are present in several community settings. • Child needs services or resources which require coordination by at least two agencies. • Child qualifies for special education and/or is otherwise mandated for services through CSA. • Child responds positively to structure and interventions and demonstrates low risk of harm to self or others. 	N/A	50-90	<20	<p>Community-Based Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afterschool • Respite • Mentor • Parent aide • Personal care assistance • Case management • Outpatient treatment, including family treatment • Facility-based crisis intervention (e.g., emergency or crisis shelter) • Behavior management program • Day treatment • In-home services <11 hours/week 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents' home • Relative's home • Foster care home • Independent living 	3 months

REVISED by OCS, JULY 22, 2003

Level of Need	Characteristics	CAFAS/PECFAS Risk Factors	CAFAS/PECFAS Total Youth/Child Score	CAFAS/PECFAS Family/Social Support Scale Score	Level Specific Program Components	Primary Caregiver Options	Minimum Review Period
2	<p>Moderate impairment with moderate risk factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs intensive supervision to prevent harmful consequences Moderate/frequent disruptive or noncompliant behaviors in home setting which increase risk to self or others Needs assistance of trained professionals as caregivers 	<p>Any risk factor: CAFAS items 3, 4, 43, 68, 69, 71, 77, 78, 89, 90, 119, 142-148 PECFAS items 3, 4, 33, 65, 81, 82, 118, 150-152, 154-155</p>	100 or higher	20 or higher	<p>Community-based interventions (as above) plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-home services > 10 hours/week, including family focused services Intensive partial hospitalization Treatment foster care Therapeutic preschool Intensive behavior management program Behavioral aide services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents' home Relative's home Foster care home Independent living Specialized foster home Professional treatment home 	3 months
3	<p>Significant impairment with problems with authority, impulsivity, and caregiver issues.</p>	N/A	100 or higher and Community Scale: 30 or higher	30	<p>Level 1 and 2 services, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Therapeutic milieu with individual treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents' home Relative's home Foster care home Independent 	2 months

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unable to handle the emotional demands of family living• Needs 24-hour immediate response to crisis behaviors• Severe disruptive peer and authority interactions that increase risk and impede growth				<p>components</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Family treatment• Low-level residential placement with least restrictive educational placement and family treatment• 24 hour supervision	<p>living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specialized foster home• Professional treatment home• Group Home• Crisis Home• Wilderness Program	
--	---	--	--	--	--	---	--

Level of Need	Characteristics	CAFAS/PECFAS Risk Factors	CAFAS/PECFAS Total Youth/Child Score	CAFAS/PECFAS Family/Social Support Scale Score	Level Specific Program Components	Primary Caregiver Options	Minimum Review Period
4	<p>Significant impairment with severe risk factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates risk behaviors that create significant risk of harm to self or others 	<p>At least 1 severe risk factor: CAFAS items 3, 4, 71, 89, 119, 142-144 PECFAS items 3, 4, 33, 65, 81, 82, 118, 150-152</p>	140 or higher	N/A	<p>Level 1, 2, and 3 services, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Day nursing coverage Discharge planning, from time of admission, for return to community Intensive behavior management program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents' home Relative's home Foster care home Independent living Specialized foster home Professional treatment home Group home Crisis home Wilderness program Campus-style residential treatment center Boot camp 	1 month

Level of Need	Characteristics	CAFAS/PECFAS Risk Factors	CAFAS/PECFAS Total Youth/Child Score	CAFAS/PECFAS Family/Social Support Scale Score	Level Specific Program Components	Primary Caregiver Options	Minimum Review Period
5	<p>Severe impairment with severe risk factors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs secure intensive treatment because of (1) demonstrated, persistent inability to be managed safely in a less structured setting (2) severe dysfunctional symptoms which require intensive interventions Needs ready access to psychiatric care Needs specialized programs to address symptoms and/or specific diagnostic areas 	<p>At least 1 severe risk factor in the past month: CAFAS items 3, 4, 71, 89, 119, 142-144 PECFAS items 3, 4, 33, 65, 81, 82, 118, 150-152</p>	140 or higher	N/A	<p>Level 1, 2, 3, and 4 services, plus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive psychiatric components (2-3 times/week), including individual and group therapy Ready access to child psychiatrist 24 hour direct nursing supervision Discharge planning, from time of admission, for return to community Intensive behavior management program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure residential treatment program 	1 month
6	<p>Acute severe risk factors OR acute medical issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acute risk of harm to self/others Requires constant observation Other acute medical needs Acute psychiatric issues requiring evaluation/observation 	<p>At least 1 severe risk factor within the last 3 days: CAFAS items 3, 4, 71, 89, 119, 142-144 PECFAS items 3, 4, 33, 65, 81, 82, 118, 150-152</p>	N/A	N/A	<p>Level 1 and 2 services, plus: Daily reassessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily therapeutic treatment services Locked unit 24 hour nursing coverage; direct medical services Exam by psychiatrist qualified to treat children Immediate family and community involvement Immediate discharge planning Psychological evaluation reviewed, updated or completed Intensive behavior management program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Psychiatric hospital 	Daily (risk factors only)

